

# **Family Court Project**

## **Jefferson County**

Basic Information	
Population:	N/A
County Seat:	Madison
Judicial Officers:	Judge Alison T. Frazier
Date of Project Implementation:	1/1/2013
Project Judge/s:	Judge Alison T. Frazier
Administrative Contact:	Kathy Cooper
Project Funding:	\$15,000.00

#### **Family Court Mission Statement**

Please provide a mission statement for your Family Court Programming

Southeastern Indiana Voices for Children Inc, through the Truancy Prevention program, assists families whose elementary school age children have a history of attendance problems. This collaborative effort includes schools, counselors and attendance clerks who watch for problematic patterns in attendance and seeks to provide support with those issues. SEIVFC assists with scheduling mediation with a certified mediator who encourages the families to give insight into the attendance problem. The program coordinator makes referrals if the problem is one that can be resolved with community services involvement. The truancy program vigorously advocates for the child to consistently attend school in order for the child to become a successful adult. The goal is that all families can find a workable solution to the attendance problem. Education is the key to success.

#### **Family Court Programming**

Please provide a description your Family Court Programming

The Truancy Prevention program is a collaborative effort between local school districts, superior court, prosecuting attorney's office, Southeastern Indiana Voices for Children Inc. (SEIVFC) truancy program coordinator and the certified mediator. We serve the elementary children of Jefferson County, Indiana which includes two (2) school districts with a total of 5 elementary schools. Our program model is a collaborative effort to include the families of the children and provide any support services that may be needed through SEIVFC, the schools, or any social service organization in the county. The school will implement incentives for attendance, and the group will decide on what sanctions are needed, including criminal prosecution as a last resort. This truancy program was first implemented in the 2011-2012 school year with excellent results. Of the schools who reported their end of the year data, the students whose family participated in the truancy program decreased the number of days absent full-day, absent half-day, and tardy by 39.8%

### **Number of Families Served**

Please provide an estimate of the number of families served through the Family Court Programming Since the beginning of this program, we have served 46 families.